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# WHY THE SOVIET MOLE CAME IN FROM THE COLD

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BRITISH secret agents who controlled Soviet double agent Oleg Gordievski for 20 years welcomed him like a long-lost brother after his "defection."

The official story: Gordievski, the 46-year-old head of the KGB's London station, had unexpectedly come over to the West with information on 25 Russian agents working in Britain.

In reality, the top ranking KGB officer had been pulled out of service after spending virtually his entire career as a double agent.

Gordievski, taken to an imposing safe house in the rolling Cotswold hills of southeast England, was toasted with Louis Rodier Chrystal champagne at a party featuring miniature mountains of Beluga caviar.

Behind the smiles, laughter and congratulation was irritation and disappointment.

For the ultimate goal of the Gordievski operation had failed.

Gordievski's next post after serving as head of London station was to have been at Moscow Center, headquarters of the KGB.

Some of his British controllers even hoped he could become chief of the KGB and, eventually, a key political figure in the Soviet government.

Intelligence sources say Gordievski was recruited in the mid-1930s shortly after his graduation from the KGB's training school.

The operation, which grew in importance as Gordievski's career blossomed, was so secret that right up to the moment of his "defection" only a handful of officers in NATO intelligence services knew of his existence.

Access to material he handed over to the West was severely restricted even within the upper echelons of the CIA and British intelligence.



HANS-JOACHIM TIEDGE

*Could blow "cover."*

Gordievski was recruited to answer the deep penetration of the British secret services.

Moscow recruited a number of moles in British universities in the 1930s and ordered them to target government ministries and intelligence services.

Gordievski turned the tables. Then came the defection of top West German counter-intelligence agent Hans-Joachim Tiedge to East Germany.

Tiedge did not know Gordievski's identity, but he may have known enough to point the Russians in the right direction.

So Gordievski was pulled out, leaving the Russians to begin a Moscow witchhunt for officers who helped his career, assisted him in winning promotions — and, more important, for his recruiters.